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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 5, 2008

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LANSING MAN SENTENCED AS
ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Tyrone Lavon Keys, 35, of Lansing, has been sentenced to 262 months (almost 22 years) in federal prison for being a career criminal in possession of a firearm, U.S. Attorney Charles R. Gross announced today. Senior U.S. District Judge Gordon J. Quist also ordered that Keys serve five years of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence.

On October 2, 2006, a Lansing Police Department officer initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle in which Keys was a passenger. After exiting the vehicle, Keys resisted and assaulted the officer, at which time a Kimber Custom .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol in Keys' waistband fell to the ground. A civilian who was riding along with the officer secured the firearm and called for assistance during the struggle. Keys was indicted by a federal grand jury for being a felon in possession of the firearm and, on March 12, 2008, he pled guilty to illegally possessing the firearm. Keys was sentenced as an "Armed Career Criminal," which carries a mandatory minimum 15-year sentence of imprisonment for individuals with three or more prior convictions involving a violent felony or serious drug offense. Keys had previously been convicted of two violent felonies – Assault with Intent to Rob While Armed and Breaking and Entering a Building with Intent – and the serious drug offense of Controlled Substance Delivery of less than 50 grams of Cocaine.

U.S. Attorney Gross commended the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Lansing Police Department for their work on the case. The federal prosecution of Keys was undertaken as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a combined federal, state and local initiative that focuses on prosecuting and obtaining significant sentences for repeat violent offenders who commit gun-related crimes.

This case was prosecuted on behalf of the United States by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Phillip J. Green and Christopher M. O'Connor.

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